

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 12-23 and 26 are pending. Claims 10, 11, 24 and 25 have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-19 and 21-23 have been amended. Claim 26 has been added. Support for the claim changes and the added claim can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 23 and 26 are in independent form.

The title was objected to on a formal ground, and has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to on formal grounds. Applicant has amended the specification accordingly, and to correct other formal matters. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,826,306 (*Lewis et al.*). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,850,627 (*Gould et al.*). Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lewis et al.*, in view of *Gould et al.* Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lewis et al.* in view of *Gould et al.*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,816 (*Nussbaum*). Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lewis et al.* in view

of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,122 (*Ortega et al.*). Claims 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lewis et al.*

Since Claims 10, 11, 24 and 25 have been canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. In response to the rejections of the other claims, Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks.

According to amended independent Claim 1, an utterance store is provided which is operable to store utterance data and is configured to associate each item of stored utterance data with speaker data identifying the speaker from whom the utterance data was collected and word data identifying the words items of utterance data represent. A speech model generation unit is then provided which is operable to receive user input identifying a user selection comprising a plurality of items of speaker data and one or more items of word data and responsive to receipt of user input to generate speech models of words utilizing utterance data associated with speaker data and word data corresponding to the input selection. A testing unit is then provided which is operable to test the accuracy of the matching of utterances using the generated word models.

The invention as set forth in Claim 1 enables better speech models to be designed because it enables a speech model designer to test speech models generated using different selections of utterances of words pronounced by different selections of speakers. Thus in this way if inclusion of a particular speaker's data or a particular speaker's pronunciation of one or more words decreases the performance of a speech model, such data can be excluded from the selection of data used to generate subsequent models.

Lewis et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended Claim 1. In the system described in *Lewis et al.* enrollment data is acquired from a single user (see col. 3, lines 50-53). Whether the obtained enrollment data is of sufficient quality for use in the generation of a speaker dependent speech model is then determined by creating a user independent prototype speech model and generating an accuracy score for the performance of a prototype generated using a particular set of enrollment data (see col. 4, lines 9-29).

Nothing in *Lewis et al.* teaches or suggests associating utterance data from a number of different speakers each with a word identifier and a speaker identifier and then generating and testing speech models using selections of utterance data selected on the basis of user input of speaker and word identifiers.

For at least the above reason, Claim 1 is believed allowable over *Lewis et al.*

Independent Claim 23, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, displaying a series of prompts to prompt the utterance of words corresponding to word identifiers stored in a vocabulary database by speakers identified by speaker identifiers stored in a speaker database, each of the prompts including data identifying both a word identifier identifying one or more words to be uttered and a speaker identifier identifying by whom an utterance corresponding to a displayed word identifier is to be made.

Gould et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended Claim 23. *Gould et al.* teaches computer directed user input of training data (see, e.g., col. 45, lines 6-16). A user interface for prompting user input of training data is illustrated in Fig. 61. Although the interface disclosed in Fig. 61 includes a window 1269 displaying a word identifying an utterance to be made, there is nothing in *Gould et al.* which suggests generating

a series of prompts which include, in addition to a prompt identifying an utterance, further data identifying by whom an utterance should be made. For at least this reason, Claim 23 is believed allowable over *Gould et al.*

Independent Claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, a data collection unit that is operable to generate a first user interface to enable user input of speaker data for storage in a speaker database, to generate a second user interface to enable user input of word data for storage in a vocabulary database, and to generate a third user interface operable to generate a series of prompts to prompt the utterance of words corresponding to word data stored in the vocabulary database by speakers identified by speaker data stored in the speaker database. Claim 26 is believed to be allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as pertain to Claims 1 and 23.

A review of the other art of record, including *Nussbaum* and *Ortega et al.*, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 1 and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons as pertain to Claim 1. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

LETTER REGARDING PREVIOUSLY-FILED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT AND PREVIOUSLY-ISSUED NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 25, 2004, the Examiner notes a typographical and a clerical error therein (see paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated February 24, 2005).

First, the pending U.S. patent application which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, submitted therewith, and (as acknowledged in paragraph 1 of the Office Action) considered by the Examiner, was cited with a typographical error in the serial number thereof. Specifically, the serial number was given as "09/462,808," but should have been given as --"09/642,808--. However, the filing date and inventor for the cited application were correctly listed in the Information Disclosure Statement, and a copy of the correct application (Application No. 09/642,808) was submitted therewith, as shown in the Image File Wrapper of the subject application accessible by PAIR.

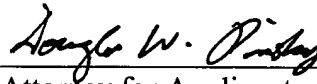
Second, the Information Disclosure Statement was incorrectly entitled "Second Information Disclosure Statement." The Information Disclosure Statement was in fact the first Information Disclosure Statement filed in the subject application and should have been entitled "Information Disclosure Statement."

Regarding the Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) issued with the Office Action dated February 24, 2005, it is noted that the Notice of References Cited fails to cite U.S. Patent No. 6,826,306 (*Lewis et al.*), U.S. Patent No. 5,850,627 (*Gould et al.*) and U.S. Patent No. 6,332,122 (*Ortega et al.*), which were applied against the claims of the subject

application in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that a further Notice of References Cited be issued citing these U.S. patents.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas W. Pinsky", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Douglas W. Pinsky
Registration No. 46,994

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
DWP/tmc

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